

## Constitution Vocabulary

**adjourn:** to end a meeting or session in court.

The court adjourned for at lunch time; the next session would start at 1:00 o'clock.

**appoint:** to choose someone for a job or for a position in the Supreme Court.

The President appoints people to his Cabinet to help with running the country.

**bicameral:** a law making body made up of 2 houses.

The US Legislative Branch is bicameral; it is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**bill:** a written description of a new idea for a law.

They will introduce an antismoking bill in Congress; this idea must be voted on before it becomes law.

**budget:** an official statement from a government about how much it plans to spend during a particular period of time and how it will pay for the expenses

The government may have to raise taxes to balance the budget; they need have the amount of money they plan to spend.

**citizen:** a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country

Even though Ben Franklin spent a lot of time in France, he was a United States citizen and could vote in elections.

**federal:** in a form of government, in which power is shared between a central government and individual states, federal is the national or central government.

We pay federal, state, and local taxes; we pay taxes to the United States, Massachusetts, and Amesbury governments.

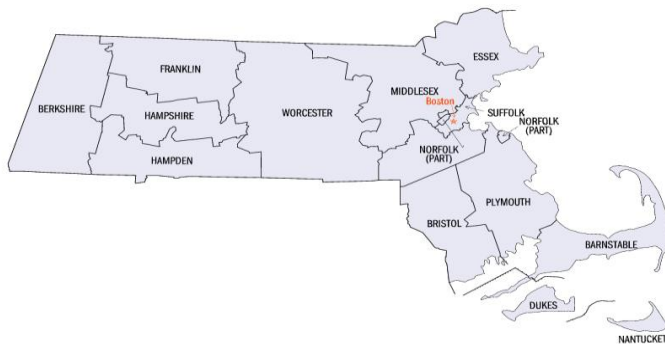
**state:** a unit in the form of government in which power is shared between a central government and individual states

Patriots Day is a state holiday in Massachusetts, other states do not celebrate it.

**county:** The largest division of most states in the United States. Counties in MA do not have governments; they are just names of areas of the state.

A county includes several towns and cities.

We live in the city of Amesbury, which is part of Essex County, one of the 14 counties in Massachusetts.



**municipal:** city's government

The Municipal Council or city council is made up of elected representatives and is the legislative branch in our city government.

**interpret:** to understand and/or explain the meaning of something.

The Supreme Courts interpret the Constitution, they decide if a law follows the guidelines set up by the Constitution.

**impeach:** to charge (a public official) with a crime done while in office ▪ Congress will vote on whether or not to impeach the President, misconduct will result in losing the office of President.

The president that commits a crime will be impeached by Congress.

**rights:** something that a person is or should be morally or legally allowed to have, to get, or to do

Women demanded the right to vote, they were citizens of the United States and should be allowed to vote.

**repeal:** to officially make a law no longer valid.

In 1986, 53% of eligible voters voted to repeal the seat belt use law, so it was no longer a valid law. However, it was reinstated in 2006.

**rule of law:** No person is above the law; the laws apply equally to all people.

Example: If the President of the United States breaks a law, he has to face consequences just like any other citizen of the US.

**suffrage:** right to vote in public elections

Women's suffrage is the right of women to vote.

**treaty:** an official agreement that is made between two or more countries or groups

The warring countries have signed a peace treaty, an agreement to stop fighting the war.

**veto:** the right or power of the President to decide that a new law will not be approved

The President has the veto over new legislation; if he does not approve a bill, it will not be a law.

**sovereign-** independent and self-governing.

Before the US Constitution, the 13 states tried to be sovereign; they printed their own money and had their own laws.